



- **Levemir® (insulin detemir) FlexPen® and Penfill® are being discontinued**
Levemir® (insulin detemir) FlexPen® and Penfill® are being discontinued in the UK by December 2026. The diabetes team at University Hospitals of Northamptonshire (UHN) will be supporting the transition of the more complex patients to alternative options via clinics that will be held at Kettering General Hospital and Northampton General Hospital. Patients who are not complex will need to be reviewed by their GP practice using the local guidance ([link](#)). In order to support the UHN diabetes team in identifying the more complex patients they have requested GP practices to run an Ardens template to find patients being prescribed Levemir and provide their details in a simple spreadsheet. It is important that this information is provided to the UHN diabetes team as soon as possible since this will facilitate patients being changed to an alternative insulin in a timely manner and this will prevent GP practices being contacted by patients once Levemir® stock has been exhausted.

- **Methylphenidate prescribing**
Methylphenidate is an amber shared care medicine. Prescribing in community should only be undertaken following the appropriate shared care protocol from NHFT or UHN (available via the [Primary Care Portal](#)). There are currently no agreed shared care protocols with Right to Choose or private providers. If a patient is initiated on methylphenidate by a Right to Choose provider, the prescriptions should continue to be prescribed by the Right to Choose provider. These providers will provide NHS prescriptions. GPs should not agree shared care for methylphenidate with organisations other than NHFT or UHN.

Methylphenidate modified release must be prescribed by brand, advice is available from [Specialist Pharmacist Services](#). We are aware that previous supply problems resulted in patients being given generic prescriptions to help enable supply. These prescriptions should now revert to branded prescribing. Affenid® XL is the formulary choice of methylphenidate XL **tablets** in Northamptonshire, this is equivalent to Concerta®. Patients should not be swapped between methylphenidate XL tablets and XL capsules because the formulation and dose is not equivalent.

- **Prescribing Blood Glucose Testing Strips (BGTS) for patients on Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM)**
Patients who are using Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) e.g. Freestyle Libre 2 also need to self-monitor their blood glucose if their physical symptoms do not match what the CGM screen, when treating low blood sugar (hypos).to test accuracy of their device and as a back-up in-case the sensor fails. **As such patients should only need a maximum of one box of 50 blood glucose testing strips (BGTS) every 3 months.** It is important that patients who are requesting excessive quantities of BGTS are reviewed as this may indicate poor blood glucose control or inappropriate use.